United Nations A/49/PV.1

General Assembly
Forty-ninth Session

Official Records

1st Meeting
Tuesday, 20 September 1994, 3 p.m.
New York

Temporary President: Mr. Insanally ..... (Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Guyana

The Temporary President: I declare open the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Minute of silent prayer or meditation

The Temporary President: Before calling on representatives to observe a minute of silent prayer or meditation in accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure, I propose that as we do so we also observe the International Day of Peace, on this third Tuesday of September, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981, to be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.

I now invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

Item 115 of the provisional agenda
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (Article 19 of the Charter) (A/49/400)

The Temporary President: Before turning to the next item on our agenda, I should like, in keeping with the established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/49/400, which has been circulated in the General Assembly Hall this afternoon. It contains a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General in which he informs the Assembly that 14 Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial obligations to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

I should like to remind delegations that, under Article 19 of the Charter,

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years."

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Credentials of representatives to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly (rule 28):

(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

94-86364 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Section, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum. When the result of a recorded and/or roll-call vote is followed by an asterisk, see annex to the record.

The Temporary President: Rule 28 of the rules of procedure provides that the General Assembly at the beginning of each session shall appoint, on the proposal of the President, a Credentials Committee consisting of nine members.

Accordingly, it is proposed that, for the forty-ninth session, the Credentials Committee should consist of the following Member States: China, Fiji, Honduras, Namibia, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Surinam, Togo and the United States of America.

May I take it that the States I have mentioned are hereby appointed members of the Credentials Committee?

It was so decided.

Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Election of the President of the General Assembly

The Temporary President: I now invite members of the General Assembly to proceed to the election of the President of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

May I recall that, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 33/138, the President of the General Assembly at the forty-ninth session should be elected from an African State.

In this connection, I have been informed by the Chairman of the Group of African States that the Group has endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Amara Essy of Côte d'Ivoire for the presidency of the General Assembly.

Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 16 of annex VI to the rules of procedure, I therefore declare His Excellency Mr. Amara Essy of Côte d'Ivoire elected President of the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session by acclamation.

I extend my very sincere congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Amara Essy, and I invite him now to assume the presidency.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the President to the podium.

Mr. Essy took the Chair.

Address by Mr. Amara Essy, President of the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session

The President *(interpretation from French)*: As I assume the presidency of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-ninth session, I wish first of all to express my warmest thanks for the confidence the Assembly has placed in me and for the tribute being paid, through me, to my country and the whole of Africa. I am aware that on assuming this lofty office I accept both a great honour and a weighty responsibility. I shall try with all my heart to fulfil this responsibility completely, as my predecessor, Mr. Samuel Insanally, did so well.

Over the last 12 months, Mr. Insanally gave new impetus to the work of the General Assembly and contributed to relaunching our thoughts and our action in the field of development and international cooperation. As his successor, I shall strive to maintain the spirit of harmony and dialogue with which the forty-eighth session was imbued. In the accomplishment of my exciting but delicate mission, I have no doubt that I shall enjoy the support of the Member States and the Secretariat, which support, I am certain, will be unstinting. I, for my part, should like to offer assurances of my complete readiness to exert every effort to conclude our work successfully.

As feelings of exhilaration and resolve to achieve our goals mingle within us, my first thoughts turn to Africa and my country, Côte d'Ivoire, whose values are reflected in those of the international community, the vibrant symbol of which is the United Nations. Côte d'Ivoire, which I had the great honour of representing here for a number of years, has always affirmed its dedication to international cooperation and has always devoted itself to the work of our Organization. How can thoughts of this work, based on the values of peace, tolerance, dialogue, human dignity, justice, equity and solidarity, not call to mind the name of Félix Houphouët-Boigny? The teachings of the first President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, have given me strength, and in the exercise of my responsibilities I shall keep in mind his political message, which is so closely related to that proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations. His legacy, upon which Côte d'Ivoire was founded as a State based on the rule of law, remains intact.

Thus, the remarkable transition that took place in Côte d'Ivoire through the strict application of

constitutional law fills us with legitimate pride. The democratic process, which saw His Excellency Mr. Henri Konan Bédié take office as President of our Republic, proved to the world the degree of maturity of our people. Worthy successor of the colossal work of his illustrious predecessor, economist of distinction, career diplomat and politician, President Henri Konan Bédié is completely in touch with the problems of our day. In facing up to the challenges confronting our world, he will soon be making an enlightened contribution in the international community.

The fast pace of historic events since the end of the cold war has so blurred our guidelines as to make it necessary for us to insist on, or even demand, the implementation of the fundamental principles upon which the United Nations was established in 1945. This gives an indication of how very valid the San Francisco Charter remains today. In saying this, I am aware that considerable changes have taken place on the international scene over the past five decades, and I know there have been profound changes in our Organization as well, not least of which is the almost quadruplication of the number of Members. Of course, such upheavals force us to adapt gradually the functions, the mission and the working methods of our Organization, as, indeed, we have begun to do. However, lest the United Nations take the path of obsolescence, the changes taking place must be fully in keeping with the Charter of 26 June 1945.

At a time when national self-interests assert themselves and virtues of solidarity are on the wane, the United Nations remains the last recourse. Hence, the solidarity and cooperation on which the Charter is based must inspire our actions. It is up to us, the representatives of the Member States in the General Assembly, essential organ of the Organization, to gauge the expectations, the hopes and the urgent needs of our peoples and to respond to them correctly. The challenges to be taken up, whose complexity is all the greater because of their interrelatedness, are manifold and unforeseeable. The idea of solidarity must take on all its meaning, then, if we are to ensure the building of a true community of nations.

The passage from the end of ideological confrontation to the establishment of a world of peace and a shared destiny is hardly an easy one. The tendencies seen since the end of the cold war, the most evident of which is the proliferation of civil war, seem to be gaining strength. Of 82 conflicts over the last three years, 79 have been internal conflicts, and in cases such as those of the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda they have led to systematic policies of "ethnic cleansing", and even genocide.

But those conflicts are but one aspect of the way our world is going. In countries of the northern and southern hemispheres alike, we are witnessing rising intolerance and xenophobia, in short fear of that which is different, of all differences: skin colour, language, ethnicity and sex. Consider, furthermore, the many frustrations, both individual and collective, that result from the spread of poverty, exclusion and social injustice. Where human misery grows, threats to the security of our world also spring forth: the degradation of the environment, the depletion of natural resources, the speeding up of the rural exodus, the growth of shanty towns on the peripheries of large metropolitan centres, urban violence, the disintegration of the social fabric and drug abuse. International terrorism, nuclear proliferation, the spread of pandemics, unemployment, famine, natural disasters, uncontrolled population growth - all are on the list of today's concerns. Of course, many of these global threats are not new. Some were hidden away and contained under the oppression and silence during the cold war. Now they are re-emerging in forms that are most alarming for mankind.

Fortunately, the end of the cold war promoted the return of peace among nations. And how can we not take delight in the considerable progress achieved towards peace? The situation in the Middle East, Palestine's recovery of authority over Gaza and Jericho, the agreement recently signed between Israel and Jordan, and mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) are the most striking illustrations of this. The ultimate outcome of this process should be the conclusion of global peace based on respect for the national rights of the Palestinians and the normalization of relations among all the States of the region.

How can we fail to refer to the great hope that was aroused in South Africa in April 1994 with the organization of free and pluralist elections, which sealed the fate of what had been the bastion of racism and apartheid and had, for decades, constituted an affront to the universal conscience? This is an appropriate time to welcome the role played by the United Nations in a struggle in which the fundamental stakes were nothing less than the dignity of the human person.

Let us also express the hope that the dialogue that is emerging in Ireland will bring peace to that long-suffering land.

And, in the past few hours, the prospects for the restoration of constitutional legality in Haiti have become increasingly real. The implementation of Security Council resolution 940 (1994) reflects the fact that law can triumph over force and indulgence and that democratic legitimacy can prevail over political arbitrariness.

The new international situation is favourable to the role of the United Nations, which is emerging as the ideal organ for promotion of the will of the international community to work towards the building of peace and the pursuit of sustainable human development. These two objectives are indissociable and interdependent, as was affirmed by the Secretary-General in his "Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277) and in his draft "Agenda for Development" (A/47/935). He said that peace was as essential for development as development was for peace. I for my part would add that there can be no lasting internal peace without the establishment of a State ruled by law.

The moral values reaffirmed at the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in June 1993 inspired the adoption of measures promoting democratization and the recognition of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

The establishment of an office of High Commissioner for Human Rights certainly has positive aspects as regards the protection and promotion of human rights. It would however be necessary to beware of falling back into the trap of blindly copying others, a trap which, when the African countries were becoming independent in 1960, led to the copying of external political models without taking into account the historical, sociological or cultural parameters of the recipient countries.

It is good to recognize the active role of participatory movements in the consolidation of democracy and peace. The wave of democratization that we have been witnessing since 1989 remains very fragile because it concerns, basically, the developing countries. If the democratic process does not soon succeed in quenching the thirst for justice and equity among the disinherited populations of our world, it is to be feared that uncontrollable situations may arise and curb democracy. What, indeed, would it mean to those populations if the values of peace, liberty, justice and equality were only words and pointless abstractions, and if they were not to lead to a concrete improvement in their living conditions?

In its constant concern to promote and ensure peace our Organization is prompted to undertake commendable actions, and, in recent years, these have significantly intensified. The mixed reactions that peace-keeping interventions sometimes arouse should not prevent us from paying a tribute to our Organization for its efforts in this field.

In less than four years we have witnessed a real revolution in the mode of intervention by the United Nations. Never has the Organization been called upon so often to put an end to conflict, to defuse crises or to undertake the quest for political solutions. It has, over the years and through the experience it has accumulated in various areas, demonstrated an enormous capacity to adapt to the complex situations it must face. Nevertheless, it is in vogue to criticize the United Nations, even though the responsibility of its Member States is directly engaged in its actions.

Have we always been aware of the consequences of the decisions we have taken? Have we not acted on the basis of specific interests? There is a need for a frank debate on questions relating to the maintenance of peace and international security. In this framework, cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organizations is essential, and the efforts made by the Secretary-General towards this end should be commended. Cooperation with the Organization of African Unity and subregional organizations has been strengthened. It would be appropriate to continue this effort with a view to better coordination of action in the field of the prevention and settlement of disputes.

The General Assembly is the depositary of the interests of the international community. Hence, any exercise with regard to restructuring the organs of our Organization would gain from being conducted in harmony with the General Assembly. But as I see it, the most important thing is still the work of the United Nations with a view to development.

Any thinking concerning this field necessarily has as a backdrop a prior assessment of the international economic system, whose institutional foundations were laid at the end of the Second World War. Fifty years later, and in the light of the upheaval in the world economy, it is clear that this system is in need of renewal. Ambitious projects for global reordering in the past have led nowhere. The most glaring failure was undoubtedly the North-South summit meeting held in Cancún in October 1981, one of the promoters of which recently stated that the decisions taken at that time

"confronted immense interests and remained virtually a dead letter".

The establishment of the World Trade Organization, decided upon at the conclusion of the Uruguay Round should none the less be highlighted. That organization is called upon to become one of the regulatory forums in the field of trade, for which the international economy feels a pressing need. Likewise, further thought should be given to the tasks and functions of organizations in the Bretton Woods group, as well as to the concept of global economic security.

Taking into account disparities in levels of development - and I should like to recall that the countries of the North have one fifth of the world's population, while they receive four fifths of its income - we could rightly have thought that the end of the cold war would coincide with an unprecedented mobilization of the international community in favour of development. This is all the more true since a constant reduction in military expenditures the world over since 1987 - about 3.6 per cent per year - has made it possible to release, by way of peace dividends, revenues amounting today to $936 billion.

These considerable sums have, unfortunately, not been allocated to development. Far from meeting the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP, official development assistance has regressed and fallen from 0.38 per cent of GNP in 1980 to 0.33 per cent in 1992-1993. According to a report of the Secretary-General, in May 1994, issued at the request of the Assembly, a general decline of 10 to 20 per cent in voluntary contributions received by the agencies and programmes of the United Nations development programmes has been recorded. I would add to this that the exponential growth in financing for peace-keeping operations and emergency assistance has greatly affected United Nations efforts in the field of development. More than two thirds of the $7 billion received in 1992 by the United Nations system (not taking into account the Bretton Woods group of organizations) was therefore allocated to peace-keeping operations and humanitarian assistance. It should be stressed that, in 1992, the developing countries paid $160 billion by way of debt reimbursement - in other words, two and a half times the amount of the aid from which they had benefited.

In the light of this situation, it can be understood that my predecessor, Mr. Insanally, noted a very widespread feeling of disenchantment and disappointment regarding the work of the United Nations in the field of development.

Paradoxically, what we usually refer to as donor fatigue coincides with a fruitful period of renewal in the methods, approaches and strategies of the United Nations system in the field of cooperation for development. I would mention only a few of the most significant examples of this.

Since 1990, when it first appeared, the annual report of the United Nations Development Programme on human development has been attempting to go beyond abstract statistics and to convey an idea of the realities of development in the daily lives of individuals.

In the field of operational activities, we have witnessed considerable progress with an integrated approach at the national level, which, *inter alia*, is intended, through the establishment of thorough dialogue with the authorities in the countries concerned, to better identify the sectoral priorities, to coordinate the activities of the various donors and to promote the national implementation of development projects.

Through innovative approaches such as those based on the concept of sustainable development and of human security, which will be further elaborated and enriched by the debate under way on the Agenda for Development, the United Nations will now be able to show its capacity to respond to the global challenges I have mentioned. This is supported by the recent conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the more recent International Conference on Population and Development. The forthcoming World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995, will also make it possible to have a concept of development based on human security prevail.

Although the United Nations has achieved considerable progress, difficulties persist in financing programmes adopted within the framework of Agenda 21, and this raises questions as to whether the donor countries have kept all of their commitments.

I cannot conclude my comments on development without mentioning in particular the case of Africa, with 90 per cent of the least developed countries. Africa is literally a martyred continent, because it has always suffered, and still suffers, from abject poverty, natural disasters, migration and mass exodus and ideological mind-sets that justify internal oppression and sometimes genocide. The international media's approach to Africa swings from compassion to voyeurism to weariness. How

many times have I heard or read in the course of recent years that my continent is a continent adrift, a continent in distress, a continent in agony.

In spite of this negative picture, I am convinced that the trends that we have seen since the crisis of the 1980s can be reversed. In spite of its many open wounds - in particular in Angola, Liberia, Rwanda and Somalia - Africa is regaining its confidence and is dedicated to designing for itself the broad lines of its future.

Africa is now aware of the multidimensional challenges confronting it and of the strategies to be implemented in order to meet those challenges. We must continue our efforts in the ongoing projects in our Organization, some of which are in the implementation phase. I have in mind in particular the United Nations Development Programme for Africa and its corollary, the commodities diversification Fund, which must be given further consideration.

Together with the liberalization of our economies, we must see an opening of new political areas that can ensure the participation of our populations. This is another challenge that the African countries in the main have been able to meet in the present decade. Single-party regimes have today become the exception on our continent, while pluralism is becoming the rule. Civil societies are becoming stronger and are taking root everywhere. Most Governments are holding free and pluralist elections. Separation of powers is becoming more effective. In other words, the principle of responsibility of African leaders *vis-à-vis* their peoples is being affirmed everywhere, under the attentive eye of a diverse and flourishing press. Of course, the path towards pluralism is not always an easy one. Political forces often find it hard to free themselves of a system inherited from single-party regimes, and freedom of information is not always well understood. None the less, in only a few years, democracy has made remarkable headway in Africa.

It is on the basis of this stabilization effort, both economic and political, that Africa is tackling other challenges - in particular, the challenge of protecting the environment, an area in which the African peoples, through their traditional communion with nature, are becoming increasingly aware of the ecological stakes.

Victims for many centuries of the slave trade, of colonization, of the clash of civilizations, Africans, in their united resistance, have always dreamed of unity. In the face of the great political, economic and cultural groupings taking root in other parts of the world, the African States have laid the foundations for regional and subregional integration. We must move resolutely forward and translate into reality the plan adopted by the Organization of African Unity in June 1991, that of an African economic community. The march towards the economic and political integration of the continent will also provide a solution to the political problems engendered by colonization which left us with borders that were referred to by Félix Houphouët-Boigny as the "indelible scars of history".

Africa, as can be readily seen, is neither resigned nor apathetic in the face of its immense difficulties. It is asserting itself and assuming its own responsibilities, taking in hand its destiny by designing its own solutions - not, however, without the active support of the international community.

At a time when the African peoples are accepting to make the most enormous sacrifices, the international community should not yield to disenchantment or to weariness. More than ever, the solidarity of peoples must be affirmed and bear fruit. Hence I should like to recall the words of former Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Hosokawa, who, in a statement before the International Conference on Africa in Tokyo, referred to a Japanese proverb, as follows:

> "A single arrow can easily break, but three arrows put together do not break".

He added:

> "The key to the solution of the problems facing Africa might be found in these three arrows: the efforts of African Governments, the active participation of African peoples and the warm support of the international community".

The year 1995 will be a watershed for our Organization. In addition to the commemoration of its fiftieth anniversary and the United Nations Year for Tolerance, the United Nations will be convening a World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference on Women. These various gatherings should result in commitments paired with specific measures to promote the human person and international solidarity.

I am convinced that the Member States will be able to bring the United Nations in line with today's needs and

challenges. In saying this, I cannot fail to think of the words of the French writer Albert Camus:

> "Able as they were to do all things, they ventured to do so little".

Let us see to it that future generations never pass such a judgement on us for having failed to assume our obligations towards our peoples, whose general will is embodied and represented in the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

United Nations A/48/PV.2

General Assembly
Forty-ninth Session

Official Records

2nd Meeting
Tuesday, 20 September 1994, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Essy ..... (Côte d'Ivoire)

The meeting was called to order at 4.40 p.m.

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Election of the officers of the Main Committees

The President (*interpretation from French*): I should like to inform members that the following representatives have been elected chairmen of the six Main Committees of the Assembly and are accordingly members of the General Committee for the forty-ninth session:

First Committee: Mr. Luis Valencia-Rodriguez (Ecuador)

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): Mr. Borys Hudyma (Ukraine)

Second Committee: Mr. Sher Afgan Khan (Pakistan)

Third Committee: Mr. Kéba Birane Cissé (Senegal)

Fifth Committee: Mr. Adrien Teirlinck (Belgium)

Sixth Committee: Mr. George Lamptey (Ghana)

I congratulate the Chairmen on their election.

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly

The President (*interpretation from French*): Pursuant to rule 31 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.

All members of the General Assembly are eligible in this election except those already represented in the General Committee, namely, those States whose representatives have been elected to the presidency of the General Assembly or to the chairmanships of the Main Committees.

In accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the annex to resolution 33/138, the 21 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session shall be elected according to the following pattern:

(a) Five representatives from African States;

(b) Five representatives from Asian States;

(c) One representative from an Eastern European State;

94-86370 (E)

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(d) Three representatives from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Two representatives from Western European or other States; and

(f) Representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of annex VI to the rules of procedure, the election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly by secret ballot will be dispensed with when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled. We shall proceed accordingly.

I shall now read the names of the candidates:

African States: Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Sudan, Tunisia

Asian States: Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Kazakhstan

Eastern European States: Armenia

Latin American and Caribbean States: Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Uruguay

Western European and other States: Austria, Netherlands

Since the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled in each region, I declare those candidates elected, in addition to the representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The following States have therefore been elected Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly: Armenia, Austria, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Fiji, France, Guinea-Bissau, India, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sudan, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the States which have been elected Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.

The General Committee for the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly has now been fully constituted in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure.

The first meeting of the General Committee will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, 21 September 1994, at 10 a.m., in Conference Room 3.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

United Nations

A/48/PV.3

General Assembly

Forty-ninth Session

Official Records

3rd Meeting
Friday, 23 September 1994, 11 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Essy . . . . . (Côte d'Ivoire)

The meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: first report of the General Committee (A/49/250)

The President *(interpretation from French)*: This morning the General Assembly will consider the first report of the General Committee (*A/49/250*). I shall be referring to specific sections and paragraphs of the report which contain recommendations for consideration by the Assembly.

We turn first to section I, "Introduction". In paragraph 2 of its report, the General Committee draws the attention of the General Assembly to the provisions reproduced in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII of its rules of procedure. May I take it that the Assembly takes note of those provisions?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: In paragraph 3, the General Committee took note of resolution 48/264 of 29 July 1994, entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", and of annex I thereto, entitled "Guidelines on the rationalization of the agenda of the General Assembly". The provisions of that resolution and of the guidelines are reflected in the document before the General Assembly under the relevant headings.

We shall now consider section II of the report, "Organization of the session".

We turn first to section II.B, which deals with rationalization of the work of the General Assembly.

In paragraph 6, the General Committee draws the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 45/45, regarding certain Main Committees meeting in sequential order, taking into account such matters as the number of meetings required for the consideration of the items with which they are charged at that session, the organization of the work of the whole session and the problem of the participation of smaller delegations. May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of paragraph 6 of the report?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: In paragraph 7 of its report, the General Committee took note of the fact that measures introduced to reduce costs relating to overtime would be strictly enforced.

In section II.C, concerning the closing date of the forty-ninth session, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that the forty-ninth session should recess not later than Tuesday, 20 December 1994, and close on Monday, 18 September 1995. May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

94-86394 (E)

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The President *(interpretation from French)*: Also in paragraph 8, the General Committee further recommends to the Assembly that all the Main Committees should make every effort to complete their work by Friday, 2 December 1994. May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: We turn next to section II.D, "Schedule of meetings".

In paragraph 9, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that morning meetings should start at 10 a.m. promptly for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees. May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: Also in paragraph 9, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that, as a cost-saving measure, every effort should be made to ensure that plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees adjourn by 6 p.m. May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: It should be noted that these measures will not apply to plenary meetings during the general debate.

In paragraph 10, the General Committee recommends that, in order to avoid the late start of meetings, the General Assembly should waive the requirement of the presence of at least one third of the members to declare a plenary meeting open and permit the debate to proceed and of one quarter of the members to declare a meeting of a Main Committee open and permit the debate to proceed. May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: None the less, I should like to endorse strongly the practical suggestion made at previous sessions that each delegation designate someone to be present at the scheduled time. I sincerely hope that all delegations will cooperate in this regard.

In paragraph 11, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that delegations should be reminded of the utmost importance of punctuality. May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: In that connection, I should like to assure the Assembly that I shall be in the Chair punctually at the scheduled time. I urge the Chairmen of the Main Committees to do the same. I sincerely hope that all delegations will make a special effort to cooperate in this regard.

In section II.E, concerning the general debate, the General Committee recommends in paragraph 12 that the general debate should begin on Monday, 26 September 1994, and end on Thursday, 13 October 1994. The General Committee also recommends that the list of speakers in the general debate should be closed on Wednesday, 28 September 1994, at 6 p.m. May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraph 12?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: In view of the very large number of speakers already on the list for the general debate, I urge representatives to make their statements in the order in which they appear on the list of speakers. Those who are unable to speak at the scheduled time will be put at the end of the list for that day.

In paragraph 13 the General Committee draws the Assembly's attention to the decision taken by the Assembly at previous sessions to prohibit the practice of expressing congratulations inside the General Assembly Hall after a speech has been delivered. The General Committee recommends that this provision should apply also at the forty-ninth session. May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: Also in paragraph 13, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that, after delivering their statements, speakers in the general debate should leave the General Assembly Hall through room GA-200, located behind the

podium, before returning to their seats. May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: We now turn to section II F.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the provisions concerning explanations of vote and right of reply contained in paragraph 14?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: May I further take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to limit points of order to five minutes, as recommended in paragraph 15?

I see no objection.

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the provisions contained in paragraph 16 regarding the length of statements?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: Section II G deals with records of meetings.

In paragraph 17 the General Committee took note of the fact that during the forty-ninth session verbatim records would be provided for plenary meetings of the General Assembly and meetings of the First Committee and that summary records would be provided for the meetings of the General Committee and the Main Committees of the Assembly.

May I take it that the Assembly approves the recommendation contained in paragraph 17?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: Section II H concerns concluding statements in the General Assembly and the Main Committees.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of this section?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: Section II I concerns resolutions.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the provisions contained in paragraphs 19, 20 and 21?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: Section II J concerns documentation.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the provision relating to reports of the Secretary-General or of subsidiary organs, contained in paragraph 22?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: In paragraph 23 the General Committee draws the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 6 of its resolution 49/264, in which the Assembly emphasizes that reports requested of the Secretary-General should be made available in all official languages in a timely manner, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the annexes thereto, with a view to enabling delegations to consider the substance of such reports more thoroughly in advance of meetings.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of paragraph 23?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: In paragraph 24 the General Committee took note of the fact that, despite the provisions adopted by the General Assembly to control and limit documentation, the volume of pre-session documentation has consistently increased in recent years, without any strengthening of resources, thus contributing to serious delays in the issuance of documentation.

Section II K refers to questions relating to the programme budget.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the provisions contained in paragraphs 25 and 26?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: In paragraph 27, concerning subparagraph 13 (d) of decision 34/401, the General Committee draws the Assembly's attention to the Secretary-General's observation that the preparation of a statement of programme budget implications by the Secretary-General may take a few days. In addition, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee need adequate time to review the programme budget implications of a draft resolution before the latter can be acted on by the Assembly.

The Secretary-General thus considers it desirable that Member States submit their proposals regarding the preparation of statements of programme-budget implications sufficiently in advance to avoid the cancellation of meetings and the postponement of consideration of items.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the observations of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 27?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: May I take it that the Assembly also approves the recommendation contained in paragraph 29 regarding the scheduling of observances and commemorative meetings?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: I now invite the General Assembly to turn to section II M, which refers to special conferences.

May I take it that the Assembly approves the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 30 and 31?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: In section II N, concerning meetings of subsidiary organs, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly, on the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, that the subsidiary organs referred to in paragraph 32 be authorized to meet during the forty-ninth session.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: We turn now to section III, which contains observations and proposals on the organization of future sessions of the General Assembly.

In paragraph 34 the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it consider whether it is possible to rationalize its meetings between January and August in order to facilitate advance planning for delegations and the Secretariat.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendation contained in paragraph 34?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: We turn now to section IV of the report of the General Committee, relating to the adoption of the agenda. This section begins at paragraph 35.

I would first remind members that rule 23 of the rules of procedure provides that:

> "Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda, when that item has been recommended for inclusion by the General Committee, shall be limited to three speakers in favour of, and three against, the inclusion."

I should like to stress that at this time we are not discussing the substance of any item.

With regard to paragraph 36, may I consider that it is the wish of the Assembly to direct its Main Committees to review their agendas with a view to streamlining their programme of work, as suggested in that paragraph?

I see no objection.

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: In paragraph 37 the General Committee recommends that the consideration of item 85 of the draft agenda (Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India) be deferred to the fiftieth session and that the item be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* In paragraph 38 the General Committee recommends that the consideration of item 86 of the draft agenda (Question of East Timor) be deferred to the fiftieth session and that the item be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* In paragraph 39 the General Committee recommends that sub-item (c) of item 90 (Report of the International Conference on Population and Development) become a separate agenda item.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* In paragraph 40, relating to item 103 of the draft agenda (Necessity of adopting effective measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of children throughout the world who are victims of especially difficult circumstances, including armed conflicts), the General Committee decided to amend the title of the item to read as follows: "Promotion and protection of the rights of children".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French)*: We now turn to paragraph 41. With regard to item 115 of the draft agenda (Personnel questions), the General Committee decided to change the wording of the item to read as follows:

"Human resources management:

(a) Strategy for the management of the human resources of the Organization;

(b) Composition of the Secretariat;

(c) Respect for the privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and related organizations;

(d) Other human resources questions."

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* I wish to draw the attention of members to the Summary of Scheduled Meetings in today's *Journal*. In Section IV of the summary of the 1st meeting of the General Committee, "Adoption of the agenda", the last paragraph of the text under item 153 should be deleted. That modification applies to all official languages.

In respect of paragraph 42, therefore, the General Committee decided not to recommend the inclusion of item 153 of the draft agenda.

We turn now to the agenda which the General Committee recommends for adoption by the General Assembly.

In accordance with past practice, we shall follow the numbering given in paragraph 43 of the General Committee's report (A/49/250) and, where it seems appropriate, we shall consider items in groups. I should like to remind members once again that at present we are not discussing the substance of any item, except when such discussion can assist the Assembly in deciding whether or not to include an item in the agenda.

Items 1 to 6 have already been dealt with.

We turn to items 7 to 25. May I remind members that we are dealing only with the question of the inclusion of the items.

I take it that these items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We come now to item 26. May I take it that the item is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* I now refer to items 27 to 44.

I take it that these items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* May I take it that items 45 to 52 are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* I now invite members to turn to items 53 to 64 relating to disarmament.

May I take it that these items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* May I take it that item 65 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We now turn to items 66 to 73.

May I take it that these items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* I now invite members to turn to items 74 to 86.

May I take it that these items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We now come to items 87 to 92 relating to international economic cooperation.

May I take it that these items will be included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Items 93 to 103 relate to social and humanitarian questions.

May I take it that these items will also be included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* May I take it that items 104 to 132 dealing with administrative and financial questions are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We now turn to items 133 to 146.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that these items are included in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Item 147 is entitled "Question of the review of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies".

May I take it that this item is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Item 148 is entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Croatia".

I am informed that a delegation wishes to make a statement concerning the inclusion of this item.

Mr. Giovas (Greece): Greece has repeatedly stated its concern on the situation in the territories of Croatia under temporary United Nations protection. As a country of the region, both in our national capacity and as a member of the European Union, we have made every possible effort, and will continue to do so, in order to convince the parties involved of the need to achieve a *modus vivendi* in those areas.

In this context, we are aware of the reasons for which the Croatian Government has asked for the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the General Assembly. However, we share the strong reservations

expressed during the meeting of the General Committee by some of its members on the title of the item, since it could prove to be inflammatory at a highly sensitive stage of the peace process in the former Yugoslavia.

We are confident that the Croatian delegation has duly taken note of those reservations and we hope that the deliberations of the General Assembly on this item will be non-confrontational and constructive.

The President *(interpretation from French):* The Assembly has taken note of the statement of the representative of Greece.

May I take it that this item is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We turn now to item 149, entitled "Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991".

May I take it that this item is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Next, we turn to item 150, entitled "Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War".

May I take it that the Assembly recommends the inclusion of this item?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Item 151 is entitled "Observer status for the South Pacific Forum in the General Assembly".

May I take it that the Assembly recommends the inclusion of this item?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Now we turn to item 152, entitled "Observer status for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the General Assembly".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to include this item in its agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Item 153 is entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to include this item in its agenda?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Item 154 is entitled "United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to include this item?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We turn now to item 155, entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to include this item?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Next we turn to item 156, entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to include this item?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Item 157 is entitled "Question of criteria for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to include this item?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* The last item for inclusion is item 158, entitled "Report of the International Conference on Population and Development".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to include this item?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We now turn to section V of the Secretary-General's memorandum (Allocation of items).

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the provisions contained in paragraph 44?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* The modifications indicated in paragraph 45 are reflected in the proposed allocation. We shall therefore consider them when we come to the relevant items under paragraph 46.

Before we proceed, may I remind members that the item numbers refer to the agenda in paragraph 43 of the report before us, namely document A/49/250.

I now invite members to turn to the list of items recommended by the General Committee for consideration in plenary meeting.

We turn first to the recommendation in paragraph 45 (a) (i) relating to item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council).

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We now turn to the recommendation in paragraph 45 (a) (ii) concerning item 18 on decolonization.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Next we turn to the recommendation in paragraph 45 (a) (iii) which concerns item 45 (Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)).

May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* In connection with paragraph 45 (a) (iv) relating to item 51 (Question of Cyprus), the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that the item be allocated at an appropriate time later during the session.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We now turn to the recommendation in paragraph 45 (a) (v) concerning item 149 (Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991).

May I take it that the Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Next we turn to the recommendation in paragraph 45 (a) (vi) concerning item 150 (Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War).

May I take it that the Assembly adopts this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We now turn to the recommendation in paragraph 45(a)(vii) concerning item 151 (Observer Status for the South Pacific Forum in the General Assembly).

May I take it that the Assembly adopts this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We turn now to the recommendation in paragraph 45 (a) (viii) relating to item 152 entitled "Observer status for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the General Assembly".

The General Committee decided to defer its recommendation on the allocation of the item to a later date.

Taking into account the decisions just adopted regarding the allocation of specific items for consideration in plenary meeting, may I now consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items listed in paragraph 46 of the report of the General Committee for consideration directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We come now to the list of items which the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the First Committee.

We turn to the recommendation in paragraph 45 (b) relating to item 62 concerning disarmament and the International Atomic Energy Agency report, not item 63, as indicated in this paragraph.

May I take it that the Assembly approves the recommendation pertaining to item 62?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Taking into account the decision just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items proposed for the First Committee in paragraph 46 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We turn now to the list of items which the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

We turn to the recommendation in paragraph 45 (c), concerning item 148, entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Croatia".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of items proposed for the Fourth Committee in paragraph 46 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We now come to the list of items which the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the Second Committee.

We turn now to the recommendation in paragraph 45 (d) (i) concerning item 92, entitled "Agenda for development". The General Committee decided to defer consideration of the allocation of the item as a whole to a later date.

We now turn to paragraph 45 (d) (ii) relating to item 158 on the report of the International Conference on Population and Development. The General Committee decided to recommend that the debate on the item should be held directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that action on the item would be taken in the Second Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the allocation of items proposed for the Second Committee in paragraph 46 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* We turn now to the list of items which the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Third Committee.

We turn to paragraph 45 (e) relating to item 95, entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of items to the Third Committee as proposed in paragraph 46 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Next we come to the list of items which the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Fifth Committee.

Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of items to the Fifth Committee as proposed in paragraph 46 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Lastly, we come to the list of items which the General Committee recommends for allocation to the Sixth Committee.

We turn to the recommendation in paragraph 45 (f) relating to item 157, entitled "Question of criteria for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly".

May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* Taking into account the decisions just adopted, may I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items proposed for the Sixth Committee in paragraph 46 of the report of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The President *(interpretation from French):* The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of the first report of the General Committee.

I wish to thank the members of the Assembly for their cooperation. Each of the Main Committees will receive the list of agenda items allocated to it so that it may begin its work as soon as possible, in accordance with rule 99 of the rules of procedure.

Agenda item 112

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The President *(interpretation from French):* I should like to inform the Assembly that Mali has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

Organization of work

The President *(interpretation from French):* I should like to announce that the list of speakers for the plenary meetings devoted to the implementation of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family, to be held on Tuesday, 18 October, is now open. Only two plenary meetings were envisaged by resolution 47/237, but I have been informed that a considerable number of Members have expressed interest in participating in these meetings and that therefore two meetings might be insufficient.

In the light of such information, I should like to request representatives who wish to speak to inscribe their names in the list of speakers as soon as possible so that we can plan how best to organize those meetings and avoid very late hours. The list of speakers for this observance will close on Tuesday, 18 October, at 12 noon.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.